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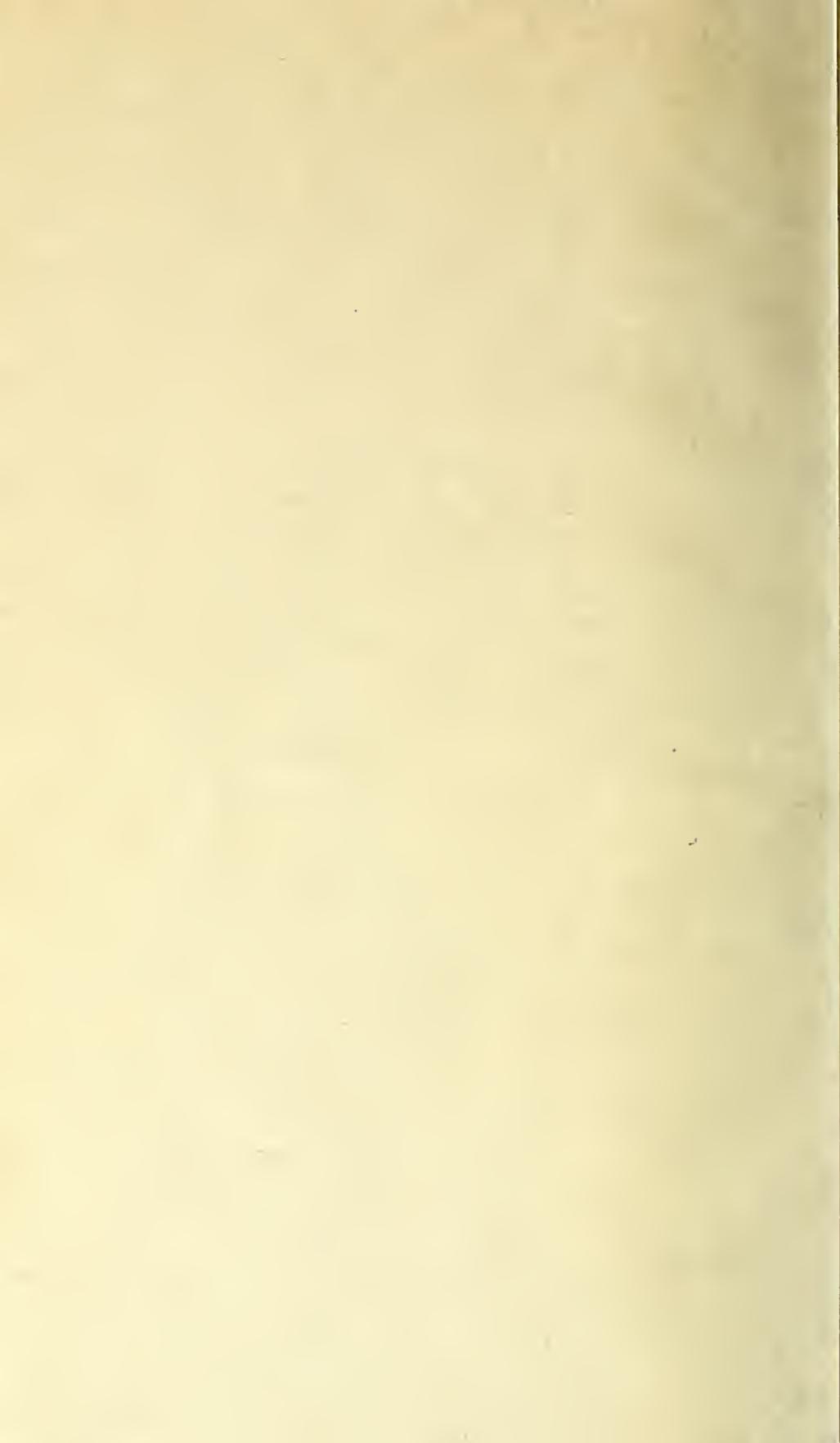
HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF DEE, CORDOVA, AND PLEASANT
GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCHES, RICHMOND
COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.

Comp. by

C. B. Deane



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HISTORICAL SKETCHES

Pee Dee, Cordova and
Pleasant Grove
Missionary Baptist Churches



RICHMOND COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA



THOMAS WILLIAM HEARNE
MINISTER

1924 - - - - - 1939



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Thomas William Hearne

In Whose Honor and In Appreciation, this Publication is issued by the Membership of the Pee Dee, Cordova, and Pleasant Grove Baptist Churches, on the Occasion of his Fifteenth Anniversary Oct. 15, 1939.

Born in Stanly County May 22, 1890, the son of Eben Edward Hearne and Margaret (Morton) Hearne. At 18 months of age his Mother died and at 24 years his Father died. His brothers and sisters living are: John W. Hearne, Monroe, N. C., Mrs. Rosa H. Phillips, Richmond, California, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Huffman, Gastonia, N. C., and C. L. Dunn, Henegar, Ala.

On January 6, 1908, he married Miss Myrtle Gibson, of Richburg, S. C., the daughter of N. B. Gibson and Laura (Deason) Gibson.

While Rev. and Mrs. Hearne have no children of their own, they have through the years cared for and reared several boys and girls for periods of several months to over twenty years. They adopted one son, Otho, now age 25, when he was a small baby.

Most of his youth was spent on a farm in Stanly County and during this period he was a student at Palmerville Academy. For several years prior to his conversion on the 3rd Sunday in August, 1918, at Prospect Baptist Church in Stanly County he held a position with the Southern Railroad. Thereafter he entered Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, to prepare for the Baptist Ministry and in 1921 was ordained in the North Albemarle Baptist Church, Albemarle. His first pastorate included a field of churches in Stanly and Montgomery Counties. In September, 1924 he came to Richmond County as Pastor at Pee Dee, Cordova, Pleasant Grove and Midway. Within a short time the rapid growth of Pee Dee and Cordova Churches required his full time. He continues to serve Pleasant Grove with two Sunday afternoon services and on the fourth Sunday afternoon he

preaches at Mt. Holly in Montgomery County.

The historical sketches of Pee Dee, Cordova and Pleasant Grove Churches appearing on the following pages will reveal some of the outstanding accomplishments and progress made by these churches during his fifteen year ministry.

He takes an active part in the educational life of the Community and State as Chairman of the Pee Dee School Committee, and as Trustee of Wingate Junior College. All of his churches are active in the work of the Pee Dee Baptist Association and all phases of the denominational work of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. He has taken a leading part in the development of more interest among the rural and village churches of the State in the Baptist Hospital and North Carolina Baptist Orphanage.

"Preacher" Hearne as he is commonly known by everyone, never reads any of his 40 minute sermons. He doesn't look a day older than his 49 years, and looks like he might live to be a hundred.

Rev. and Mrs. Hearne live in their home located on Hamer Hill several hundred yards off the highway above the Pee Dee Baptist Church, about a mile directly north of Rockingham.

Pee Dee Baptist Church CHURCH DIRECTORY

J. E. Sanford, Clerk : : : Ralph Benoy, Jr., Treasurer
 Howard Spivey, Secretary
 D. D. Long, Director of Music
 Mrs. S. M. Cole, Pianist
 J. L. O'Quinn, Superintendent
 Sunday School
 Mrs. Ralph Morse, Secretary
 Sunday School
 Mrs. Fred E. Morgan, President
 Woman's Missionary Society

DEACONS:

M. R. Soloman, Chairman

W. Z. Davis	A. C. Phifer
Jack Humber	Sam Caulder
Lee Brigman	Ralph Benoy, Jr.
Paul Shaver	S. M. Cole
M. F. Martin	L. L. Thrower
Sam G. Hogan	C. Daniel Melton

TRUSTEES:

A. C. Phifer, Chairman

D. L. Henry	Ralph Benoy, Jr.
M. F. Martin	Jack Humber

HISTORICAL SKETCH

A small group of approximately thirteen missionary Baptists gathered in Pee Dee Academy, for some years an elementary school located at the northern edge of Pee Dee Mill Village No. 1, on a Sunday afternoon in May, 1917 for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church which would serve particularly the Baptists living in the mill villages of Pee Dee No. 1 and 2.

This meeting was called and presided over by Reverend A. G. Melton who was then pastor at Steele's Mill, now Cordova and at Pleasant Grove in Richmond County. At the close of the Conference the following individuals who were members at the Rockingham First Baptist Church and Cartledges Creek Church expressed a desire to form a new church and forthwith organized the Pee Dee Missionary Baptist Church and became the charter members. These members were: A. C. Phifer, J. J. Dees, Mrs. J. J. Dees, Conly Covington, Mrs. Conly Covington, Z. B. Covington, Mrs. Z. B. Covington, Mrs. J. B. McLemore, Bob Andrews, Miss Cora Andrews, Mrs. Ida Tyson, and T. L. Becknell, of whom Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Phifer, Mrs. J. J. Dees, Mrs. Z. B. Covington, Mrs. J. B. McLemore and Mrs. Ida Tyson are still active members. The new church then called Reverend A. G. Melton as the first pastor.

Of the three deacons, who were also elected trustees at this meeting, Conley B. Covington, J. J. Dees and A. C. Phifer, the last named being chairman of both groups, only A. C. Phifer survives and is now the present senior deacon. Other officers named to serve the new church were: A. C. Phifer, Clerk and Sunday School Superintendent, and J. J. Dees, Treasurer.

For the next several months while a new church building was being erected the small group of members of the newly constituted church held services in the Pee Dee Protestant Methodist Church, located just north of the present church.

It will be recalled that this was the World War period of 1918-'19 and all building material was very costly. However, the little group of courageous members continued to work and pray and give most liberally. The greatest number of the members worked in the mills and each week contributed toward the payroll of the carpenters and workmen from their weekly earnings. One of the workmen constructing the church gave all of his time free of cost. Many other members gave in a most sacrificial way.

A complete canvass of the townspeople was made and contributions were made by Baptists in other churches, Methodists, Presbyterians and men and women in all walks of life. One of the most liberal contributions of \$500.00 came from the Pee Dee Mfg. Company through the generosity and recommendation of the late Mr. Wm. Entwistle. It is of interest to know that it was not until 1940 that Mr. Wm. Harry Entwistle, grandson of the late Mr. Wm. Entwistle, authorized the Company to convey without cost to the church trustees a free and clear title to the land where the church is located. Prior to this time the church held possession to the land only so long as it was used as a site for a Baptist church.

A. C. Phifer was the contractor and builder of the original church and on or about twelve months from the date of the

organization in May, 1917, the structure was completed, the first services were held and the church dedicated.

On October 26, 1920, when the Pee Dee Baptist Association was holding its annual Association at Cartledges Creek, the Pee Dee Church applied and was admitted to the Association and reported a total membership of sixty.

1920 was the last year the church was served by Pastor Melton. In 1921 J. H. Booth was called and served through 1923 and a part of 1924. The church gained some thirty members during this pastorate. In September, 1924 Thomas W. Hearne accepted a call to become the third pastor and has served continuously to this date.

Under the leadership of Pastor Hearne the church doubled its membership and contributions the first year. All through the years as the statistical table at the close of this historical sketch will reveal the church has made outstanding progress.

One of the first forward steps taken by the church under the leadership of Pastor Hearne was to decline further missionary aid from the Baptist State Convention.

Time and again during the past fifteen year pastorate of Preacher Hearne the original church building has been remodelled, enlarged, and today is completely modernized with eighteen rooms including a spacious auditorium, two department assembly rooms, fourteen classrooms, and pastor's study. The building is conservatively valued at \$6,500.00. It stands today a monument to the vision, love, devotion and sacrifices of a faithful and earnest group of Christians who have followed the leadership of a wise and good pastor.

STATISTICAL HISTORY PEE DEE BAPTIST CHURCH

Year—Pastors	Church Memb's	Local Gifts	Dem. Gifts	Total Gifts
1920 A. G. Melton	60	\$773.36	\$179.44	\$ 952.80
1921 J. H. Booth	62	452.14	90.65	542.79
1922 J. H. Booth	83	415.00	70.80	485.80
1923 J. H. Booth	50	593.50	19.00	612.50
1924 T. W. Hearne	58	564.31	51.00	615.31
1925 T. W. Hearne	104	1181.65	53.74	1235.39
1926 T. W. Hearne	150	1718.27	81.91	1800.18
1927 T. W. Hearne	194	1338.51	50.00	1388.51
1928 T. W. Hearne	211	2409.18	163.00	2572.18
1929 T. W. Hearne	218	1727.08	157.50	1884.58
1930 T. W. Hearne	224	1947.17	128.00	2075.19
1931 T. W. Hearne	258	1809.95	128.26	1938.21
1932 T. W. Herane	267	1354.91	159.62	1514.53
1933 T. W. Hearne	180	1233.95	112.07	1346.02
1934 T. W. Hearne	194	1359.27	147.45	1506.72
1935 T. W. Hearne	204	1451.52	183.45	1634.97
1936 T. W. Hearne	225	1896.10	222.38	2118.48
1937 T. W. Hearne	265	2250.24	330.17	2580.41
1938 T. W. Hearne	341	2823.39	240.88	3064.27
1939 T. W. Hearne	418	3495.77	311.97	3807.74
		\$30,795.27	\$2,881.29	\$33,676.56

CORDOVA BAPTIST CHURCH DIRECTORY

Mrs. R. R. Ussery, Clerk : : : : R. R. Ussery, Treasurer

Mrs. Jesse N. Evans, Secretary

W. F. Moore, Director of Music. Miss Ruby Mae Bland, Pianist

O. D. Bland, Supt. Sunday School, Milton L. Pruett, Sec.

Mrs. Jesse N. Evans, President W. M. S.

DEACONS: R. R. Ussery, Chairman

O. D. Bland W. S. Kearse Taft Simmons

W. Marvin Lisk J. E. Ussery Colon Parker

TRUSTEES: O. D. Bland, Ira B. Pittman, R. R. Ussery

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Cordova Baptist Church, located at Cordova, five miles southwest of Rockingham, is the outgrowth of a Union Sunday School at the same place, composed mainly of Methodists and Baptists. The aggressive leader of the Baptist division of the Sunday School was Eli Childress. This organization continued for a period of time, but it was not long however until the spirit of Missionary Baptists led to organizing a Baptist Church.

The first church took the name Steele's after the manufacturing plant bearing that name and was constituted mainly to serve the people of the Steele's mill community. In 1935 for better identification among the Baptist churches of the Pee Dee Baptist Association and the North Carolina Baptist State Convention the name was changed to Cordova.

Records are not available to show the exact date of the organization. One of the charter members and the only one now a member of the present church is Charles H. Gillum. It is his opinion along with some of the older members that the group of Baptists in the Union Sunday School came apart and organized a missionary Baptist church in 1895 or 1896. These opinions are supported by the record showing that on October 21, 1897 the Steele's Baptist Church was received into the Pee Dee Baptist Association, at the annual meeting held in Rockingham. T. S. Wright was the first pastor and assisted the group in perfecting the early organization.

Other charter members included Eli Childress and Thomas Gillum. being the first deacons and officers of the church; others were, Mrs. Hennie Sullivan, Mrs. Martha Hicks, and Mrs. Julia Gilliam Davis. The church built up around the Childress, Gillum, Sullivan and Hicks families. Mrs. Martha Frances Hicks is the mother of Mrs. Ira B. Pittman, a present member.

From the date of the organization until 1900 when the present auditorium was erected, the membership held services in a small one room house located approximately where the old brick school house now stands. It was later used after the church was built by the cook employed by the Supts. of mill.

Several years ago Eli Childress, the main leader of the early group attended an anniversary service at the church and related some of the many difficulties and struggles of the church in the beginning. He was a key figure in the early life of the

church being the person who lead the group out from the Union Sunday School and was one of the prime movers in the erection of the church. He related in the message above referred to how the members from their small weekly earnings contributed toward the building program. No assistance came from the outside which is a remarkable tribute to this small group. Many of the members did much of the construction work. Clinton Robbins was the contractor and received \$80 for his services.

A statistical history of the church appears on page 7. This table gives the names of the different ministers who have served the church from the beginning, together with the membership and gifts for the years 1897-1939.

Throughout the years the membership has enjoyed a close and enduring fellowship, free from unholy alliances. Most cordial relationships have existed between the church and the Steele's Mill officials, especially during the presidency of Mr. John W. Porter, who has substantially aided the church.

A study of the statistical table reveals no substantial gains in total members until the 'twenties. One should recall however that during the preceding years many difficulties had to be overcome. It required courage and conviction to establish a Baptist church under rather unfavorable conditions. In those prior years the enduring foundations were laid for the splendid harvest that has come during the pastorate of Thos. W. Hearne.

In the spring of 1926 the rapid growth of the church made it necessary that the present wings and additional Sunday School rooms be added. The entire church was remodeled including the erection of a balcony and the installation of a Baptistry. This recalls to the mind of the older members that prior to the Baptismal services were held at the mouth of Rocky Branch where it flows into the Steele's Mill Pond.

Each year during the past fifteen years have seen many new improvements added to the church plant and today the church is conservatively valued at \$7,500.00. Prior to 1925 the church received each year support from the Baptist State Mission Board. Such support has not been requested or needed since. In 1929 gifts totaling \$2,006.96 were given to local expenses and \$145.00 given to mission and denominational causes.

The following Clerks have faithfully served the church: W. I. Robbins, 1897-1899; J. A. Combs, 1900-1904; O. A. Sullivan, 1905-1907; J. H. Webb, 1908-1910; W. L. Messick, 1911-1914; J. M. Douglas, 1916-1921; Maude Millican, 1922; Thomas Brooks, 1923; Virginia Pittman, 1924-1938; Mrs. R. R. Ussery, 1939.....

Superintendents of the Sunday School have been: R. T. Caudle, 1897-1898; J. A. Combs, 1899; R. T. Caudle, 1900-1901; L. B. Brady, 1902; M. J. Hutchinson, 1903-1904; W. A. Parker, 1905; P. G. Webb, 1906; J. J. Parker, 1907-1910; P. G. Webb, 1911-1912; J. F. Hicks, 1913; H. H. Deaver, 1914-1915; J. E. Ussery, 1916-1917; W. E. Smith, 1918-1920; J. E. Ussery, 1921-1922; S. T. Arnold, 1923; H. T. Gainey, 1924; H. H. Dabbs, 1925-1928; O. D. Bland, 1929-1931; L. C. Ross, 1932; R. R. Ussery, 1933-1938, and O. D. Bland, 1939.....

STATISTICAL HISTORY CORDOVA BAPTIST CHURCH

Year—Pastor	Church Members	Local Gifts	Dem. Gifts	Total Gifts
1897 T. S. Wright	30	\$ 26.25	\$ 4.25	\$ 30.50
1898 T. S. Wright	30	15.40	4.60	20.00
1899 T. S. Wright	33	151.50	5.76	157.26
1900 T. S. Wright	37	378.75	22.27	401.02
1901 T. S. Wright	20	100.25	4.25	104.50
1902 T. S. Wright	37	163.25	14.00	177.25
1903 T. S. Wright	68	93.50	2.90	96.40
1904 T. S. Wright	104	74.25	4.75	79.00
1905 T. S. Wright	75	130.00	50.00	180.00
1906 T. J. Hudson	132	235.50	35.00	270.50
1907 L. E. McDavid	135	171.00	85.00	256.00
1908 P. H. Purnell	117	182.00	52.25	234.25
1909 P. H. Purnell	119	206.65	55.00	261.65
1910 P. H. Purnell	80	260.00	55.00	315.00
1911 Jerry Reeves	65	286.00	65.00	351.00
1912 Jerry Reeves				
1913 Jerry Reeves	58	217.50	78.50	296.00
1914 Jerry Reeves	60	234.85	63.12	297.97
1915 C. E. Edwards	47	227.75	28.98	256.73
1916 C. E. Edwards	41	212.30	19.59	231.89
1917 C. E. Edwards	60	198.95	67.82	266.77
1918 A. G. Melton	63	624.50	66.14	690.64
1919 A. G. Melton		547.42	166.00	713.42
1920 W. M. Huggins	72	437.08	170.65	607.73
1921 Vacant	72	1002.32	25.85	1028.17
1922 J. H. Booth	74	830.00	50.00	880.00
1923 J. H. Booth	85	551.57	22.91	574.48
1924 T. W. Hearne	85	537.92	29.50	567.42
1925 T. W. Hearne	112	1012.91	41.41	1054.32
1926 T. W. Hearne	151	2073.17	121.93	2195.10
1927 T. W. Hearne	203	2342.77	184.67	2527.44
1928 T. W. Hearne	223	1595.31	166.04	1761.35
1929 T. W. Hearne	260	1620.36	45.60	1665.96
1930 T. W. Hearne	208	1543.61	110.30	1653.91
1931 T. W. Hearne	246	1569.76	250.89	1820.65
1932 T. W. Hearne	270	1522.52	113.12	1635.64
1933 T. W. Hearne	269	1454.39	94.33	1548.72
1934 T. W. Hearne	270	1718.51	102.00	1820.51
1935 T. W. Hearne	305	1491.88	136.75	1628.63
1936 T. W. Hearne	334	1824.15	130.71	1954.86
1937 T. W. Hearne	324	1979.55	185.00	2164.55
1938 T. W. Hearne	349	1852.86	68.08	1920.94
1939 T. W. Hearne	368	2006.96	145.00	2151.96
		\$33,705.17	\$3,144.92	\$36,850.09

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Directory

P. G. Webb, Clerk : : : : W. F. Campbell, Treasurer
 Miss Sally Dabbs, Pianist
 W. F. Campbell, Supt. S. S.
 Miss Nellie Brigman, Secretary

DEACONS:

W. F. Campbell, P. G. Webb, Eli English, Baxter Richardson.

TRUSTEES:

Daniel E. Campbell, Baxter Richardson, Eli English.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

In 1882, or early in 1883, seven devout Missionary Baptists, living about 7 miles south of Rockingham on the old Sandhill Road, met and organized Pleasant Grove Church. It is an inspiring story how these early pioneering Baptists set themselves to the task of building—they included two brothers, J. M. and H. S. Lyles and their wives; Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Williams, and H. E. Maske.

These men and women were assisted in organizing by Rev. J. M. Bennett who perhaps served as pastor for a short while; he died June 26, 1935, at age of 75 and was buried at Canton. J. B. Williams and H. S. Lyles were named as first Deacons, and J. M. Lyles and H. E. Maske as Trustees.

On April 23, 1884, the Church acquired a tract of land from John W. Cole and on this they built. In later years, Henry C. Wall gave them additional land, making the whole area three acres.

During the first year at "laying by" time, the three men members assisted by a few neighbors cut from the land enough timber to erect the church. The logs were sawed at the mill of W. E. Crosland Sr., free of charge. During the second year the frame-work, roof and sides were built and in the third year the first services were held. During the ensuing years the interior was finished. In the meantime, while all this was taking place, the little group held services in the old "brush arbor" and in the old Smith school.

The record is not available for each pastor—probably Revs. J. M. Bennett, R. L. Pruette, Livingston Johnson, E. D. Cameron until 1894. Thereafter, the pastors were: Revs. J. F. Tuttle 1895; T. S. Wright 1895-1904; J. W. Cobb 1905; T. J. Hudson 1906; I. E. McDavid 1907; P. H. Purnell 1908-1910; Jerry Reeves 1911-1914; C. E. Edwards 1915-1917; A. G. Melton 1918-1919; W. M. Huggins 1920-1921; J. H. Booth 1922-1924.

In 1924 Rev. T. W. Hearne accepted the call and is its pastor at the present time (1939).

In 1895, 13 years after organizing, the membership was 57. In 1924, it was 51—but during his 15 years pastorate, Bro. Hearne has increased it to 133 in 1939.

Many former members are buried in the church cemetery—a total now of 125; among them, J. B. Watkins and wife and Mrs. J. B. Williams. Many names are linked with the early history of the church, including the Williams-sons, Campbells, Gardners, Smiths, Lides, Farmers, Grices, Dabbs, Webbs, Brigmans, Richardsons, Austins and many others.

The Church has ordained and sent out one of the former members, Thomas Lide, who is today a prominent Baptist pastor in South Carolina.

Since January 1, 1906, W. F. Campbell has served as Sunday School Supt., and is the oldest church officer.

The greatest growth has been during T. W. Hearne's pastorate. In 1934 five additional S. S. rooms were built. Outstanding years were 1932 when 20 were baptized, 27 in 1934, 16 in 1936, 13 in 1937. A total of \$6627.46 has been given to local expenses since 1924, and \$893.84 to denominational causes, or a grand total gifts of \$7531.30 during the pastorate of "Preacher" Hearne—a fine achievement for a loyal group. All honor to Pleasant Grove.

On Oct. 15th, 1939, the three Baptist churches of Pee Dee, Cordova and Pleasant Grove held an anniversary service commemorating the 15th anniversary of Rev. T. W. Hearne as their Pastor.

The service was held in the large school building at Cordova, and it was full of admiring friends.

Among the speakers were Judge Don Phillips, L. J. Bell, Rev. Bruce Benton, C. B. Deane, and the sermon by Dr. E. S. Summers, pastor of the First Baptist church of Concord; he was introduced by C. C. Burris, president of Wingate Junior College, who presided.

In addition, statistical reports were prepared by Miss Virginia Pittman and Miss Viola Phifer from Cordova and Pee Dee churches.

At the conclusion of the service Oct. 15th, Pastor Hearne was given a delightful surprise—he was presented with a brand new 1940 Dodge automobile by his several congregations.

And now here are the articles, starting first with the introduction by President C. C. Burris, then the sermon by Dr. Summers. This phase of the service started at 11 o'clock, with adjournment at 12:30 for lunch. In the afternoon were the various commendatory addresses.

Sermon by Rev. E. S. Summers

INTRODUCTION BY C. C. BURRIS:

Ladies, gentlemen and friends, we meet today on a very happy occasion, the Fifteenth Anniversary for Rev. T. W. Hearne—1924 to 1939, he has been your Pastor.

I wish to thank you for the honor and privilege of presiding over this meeting and it is a pleasure indeed for me to come in fellowship with you and assist in some way to show honor to your Pastor and my good friend. I am sure we all appreciate the use of this nice building that we are privileged to use today and I hope that while it is not the House of God, we will be careful not to abuse it in any way.

It is a pleasure indeed, too, to have with us today, Mr. Rommie Pierce from Wingate Junior College Faculty to conduct our singing.

I think all parts of our Church program are important, teaching service of Sunday School with all of its manifestation for the progress of God's Work; training service of the young people; various works that we do in our community, helping the poor, visiting the shut-ins, all those things are a part—ministering the sick—all these, but the most important part of the Church work is the preaching of God's Word. I think it should be given the central place and primary place and all other functions of the Church should tend toward the preaching service.

I believe in paying honor to whom honor is due and the Pastor is the most important officer of the Church, he is called of God and we ought to give honor unto him as unto God. I think it is very fitting that the central part of this exercise, the main part, be the Sermon, and so I wish to compliment and

congratulate your committee that you have thus made it your central part of this morning's service at this hour. I congratulate and compliment your committee, and I rejoice with you, for your selection of the Preacher of this morning's hour—friend of your Pastor through the years and personal friend of mine and yours, if you know him. One of God's own Baptist Evangelist, Servant of the people. It is with pleasure and pride that I introduce to you as the Preacher of the Hour, Rev. E. S. Summers, Pastor First Baptist Church of Concord, and the hour is his.

SERMON BY REV. MR. SUMMERS

There must be a very close personal association and a very strong call upon my heart to cause me to be away from my own dear Church on a Sunday morning worship hour. Such personal association have I had with your beloved pastor that I could not resist coming to this service where his fine work and true worth are being rightfully recognized. The Churches here represented were so gracious to me, when I was here with you in some meetings a few years ago, and such a flood of happy memories flowed over my soul when Brother Humber's invitation came again I was unable to resist the urge to be with you in this glad hour.

My subject on this beautiful occasion is "A Crown and the Heart of God." As a basis for our thought I point you to two texts of Scripture. The first is Philippians 4:1, "My brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and my crown." The second text is Jeremiah 3:15, "I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

Before we go further I want to say this introductory word. From the depths of my heart do I appreciate the people of these three good churches letting me have a little part in this your day of rejoicing. At this time you honor first of all Christ, the great Head of the Church and the great Shepherd of the sheep, then yourselves as the followers of Christ as you worthily honor Christ's faithful under shepherd, your princely pastor. Occasions such as this are cases along life's way. Such rich and sacred fellowships give relief from the grit and grind of the long desert march, give zest and courage for the tiresome journey on the wide plateau and power for the steep and perilous climb to the mountain top where a vision of the fellowship of God's home may be seen.

I'm happy to be among Christians who know how to be friendly. How this sin-sick, war-torn world needs the spirit of brotherhood and Christian friendship. Yes, and how often do some Christian people need to be reminded of the every day notices and common courtesies of life. The dear little three year old girl who couldn't talk very plain prayed far more meaningfully than she knew when she added to her child's prayer, "And dood Dod make all badpeople dood and make all dood people nice." True friendships, the kind you people demonstrated to me some years ago, the kind that makes this day possible and the kind the evidences of which I see mirrored on

your faces today, may yet make this old world a better place in which to live.

With the passing days the conviction is being more and more firmly planted in my soul that friendship cemented by Christian love is man's dearest earthly treasure. In saying this I'm not minimizing the home. But our homes will be disrupted unless friendship's ties are sufficient to hold the home together. Nor am I minimizing money with all the blessings it may bring. But money will buy little where there are no friends. I'm not forgetting our loved ones. But even our loved ones may become burdensome where friendships have been sundered. Truly the great Apostle says that the greatest of all is love and yet love becomes helpless unless friendships give to love avenues of expression. Jesus loved Jerusalem but when friendship in the city of the great king was lacking even the love of Jesus was expressed in the bitter wail: "O Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stoneth them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not."

The happiest man I ever remember meeting was a pastor who loved his people devotedly—had loved them through the years and still loved them—but somehow the ties of friendship had broken and he had no way of expressing his love to those for whom his heart yearned. On the other hand, I feel that about the happiest man in all the world is that pastor whose churches, after fifteen years of fellowship, magnify the endearing and enduring ties of friendship in occasions such as this when reciprocal Christian love can have its rightful place.

Now let me say but two brief words about the true connection between a pastor and his people.

1. A CHURCH RIGHTLY RELATED TO HER PASTOR IS THAT PASTOR'S PRICELESS CROWN. In my first text read a few moments ago (Philippians 4:1) Paul speaks of a church similar to Pleasant Grove, Cordova or Pee Dee as "My joy and my crown." A man is really king when he is held in kindly esteem in the hearts of his people. He is declared king when a crown is placed upon his head. Today you crown your pastor with words and tokens or honor, but his true crown is you. Your friendship, loyalty and love shown through the years that have been and shall be are more gracious tokens than you could possibly bestow in any single day though you might crown him with the costliest material crown of earth.

A crown speaks, first of all, of loyalty in following the leader. So just as you people faithfully follow the leadership of your dear pastor as he follows Christ do you worthily crown his efforts. The next message of a crown is that of loyalty. When a church moves forward in one bond of Christian love then the crown on the head also gladdens the heart of the pastor. In the third place a crown speaks of fidelity. You have been faithful in your love guarding the position, the home and the good name of your pastor and guarding the good fellowship of the church he loves. You haven't let Satan, sin or unworthy men steal away his crown. As again and again you prove true he shall continue to be able to say with Paul "My

helping hand and has never interfered with or crossed me in joy and my crown."

The last word of a crown is the word of success. A king retains his crown just so long as his army is successful. So just as you church members win the battle over sin in your daily lives, over sin in your community and just as you join your forces with your sister churches in great missionary endeavor that Christ may conquer in all the world will you continue to be a worthy crown.

2. My second word must be spoken briefly, it is thus: A PASTOR RIGHTLY RELATED TO HIS CHURCH IS GOD'S HEART FOR THAT CHURCH. In the last of the two verses read as our text (Jeremiah 3:15), Jehovah says to those He loves, "I will give you pastors according to mine heart." An ancient Chinese proverb said: "God couldn't be everywhere so He made mothers." While perhaps you would not put it just that way still the old proverb does express a true and beautiful relationship. In some such manner let me say that Christ, the great Shepherd or Pastor, could only be everywhere in spiritual presence so He made under Shepherds, or Pastors to visibly and tangibly be His heart of love and blessing for His people.

Christ says to such men as your Pastor, "Go preach—make disciples—baptize them—teach them—and lo, I am with thee always even to the end of the ages." Christ comes with His gospel and with the preacher of His gospel into many hearts, homes, communities and churches.

Through the lips of your human pastor the voice of the spiritual God becomes audible in the message of salvation as souls have been led to know Christ as Savior and Lord. Through the faithful pastor's ministries God's heart has been interpreted to you in your hours of uncertainty, sorrow and need as he has brought understanding, comfort and strength from on high. If and when there has been failure remember that God says through His great servant Paul that He has placed this ministry not in the hands of angels but in earthen vessels that the glory might be of God and not of man.

The responsibility of being the very heart of God, as the pastor is to interpret the love of God to his people, humbles any God-called pastor and leads him to plead for and to constantly depend upon the love, forgiveness, friendship and prayers of his faithful people. My prayer is that you who have labored together so successfully under the good hand of your God for these fifteen years may be the recipients of even greater blessings from God as He shall guide you even more gloriously in the years that are yet to come. May God bless you.

Hearne as a Citizen

BY JUDGE F. DON PHILLIPS

My friends, it gives me great pleasure to perform the small part of this service that I am now about to perform. A lady of your community informed me of this fine tribute that

you are now paying your Pastor and asked me to join you today since I was a close personal friend of Mr. Hearne. She did not say a word about me having to make a speech, and not until Saturday did I know that I was to speak and not until this afternoon did I know what I was to speak about. So you will know what I say will be entirely impromptu and from my heart.

I have learned to know Mr. Hearne (I call him Preacher) in these past fifteen years very well. I have had a great deal of pleasure talking with him about the problems of his work and the problems of my work. Many days I have met him in Dave Henry's store and we would talk together and I would give him my opinions and advice in regard to his problems and he would give me his God given advice in regard to my official and everyday problems.

These people around here have certainly been doing some "Dodging" about in the last few days. Preacher Hearne has been "dodging" for quite awhile now—not the wrong kind of dodging however—dodging here and there doing God's work among his people and then dodging publicity for this honorable work. Today Mr. Hearne's friends have said many good and honorable things of him which we all know to be true but there is one thing about him which they failed to mention. This fine quality which they failed to mention is Tolerance. You know and I know a great many good men, Godly men that fail in this respect. Mr. Hearne, however, has more tolerance than any man I have ever known. When he hears of one that has fallen by the wayside he goes straight to his side (not behind his back and helps to down him further by telling others of his downfall) and asks to let him do something to help bring him back to God. My friends, tolerance is one of the greatest attributes a man can possess. I heard a sermon sometime ago preached by one of the great North Carolina Bishops, and I was glad to hear the preacher that delivered the sermon to us today handle the same subject matter so ably. The gist of his subject was that the Christian people worshiped an invisible God. He said that God's children could not see him physically and the only way that God could be revealed to his people was through the lives of men and women upon the earth. Preacher Hearne for fifteen (15) years has moved among the people of this community and by his works, visiting the sick, helping the needy, advising the downfallen, burying the dead, praying with the sorrowful and in many other countless ways, has been revealing the presence of God to his people. By his life he has shown to the people of this community the presence of our Invisible God.

My friends, the task you have so kindly given me to perform and which I consider an honor and a privilege, because you have asked me to convey a small measure of your love to your Beloved Pastor—Preacher Hearne, I now, on behalf of your people, who love and respect you, present to you, as a small token of their love and appreciation, the keys to a New 1940 Dodge Automobile.

Hearne as a Neighboring Pastor

BY REV. BRUCE BENTON.

I don't know whether I am supposed to talk about myself as a neighboring Pastor or talk about Brother Hearne as a Neighboring Pastor. But I assume that I am to talk about my neighbor—to say what I please about him. We have the privilege of saying about our neighbors just what we want to say, anywhere and at any time, but there are a few things that I don't say to my wife, nor to any other woman. I feel this afternoon that we should not overlook the fact that our neighbor here has a wife, and if you will believe one who has been married sometime, and who has had quite a bit of experience, more is to be attributed to the wife for the success of these Churches than to the husband. Now he does not like that, but I don't care. Now what I say to her I will say it privately—not in the presence of her husband.

As a neighboring Pastor, I was here when Mr. Hearne came. When he came to Rockingham I had never seen him before, and I didn't care much and he didn't either—we were just a little shy of each other—he didn't fool around me and you believe me—I didn't fool around him either. So we just went along with an eye on each other—I was trying to see what kind of a man he was before I was willing to commit myself, and I suppose he was doing the same. For about a year we didn't have anything to do with each other, but in length of time I had watched him closely, and I became convinced that he was just the man for the situation at Pee Dee and Cordova Churches. He was needed in this community, and I extended to him the palm branch after about a year, and he accepted, and from that day to this we have talked and walked together, and when we want to do any mischief we do it together. He is one of the funniest fellows to travel about with you have ever seen. He won't take his members along—no, he wouldn't do that. When he wishes to relax we go off sometimes half a day, and then sometimes a full day and night, and I have to wire back home and tell my wife where we are. He just tells me all about you men and women, but there is one thing I have noticed, he won't let me say a thing against one of you; he tells me he has a right to say what he pleases about his own people, but I just can't say a word; and I tell him about my people and if he says anything, I, too, put a stop to that right now. You know a preacher has to have a little outlet for his surplus energy—somebody to explode on. After he has gone through the services on Sunday, Monday morning he is on the warpath and a very dangerous man; he will get mad with anybody about anything. I think that is one of the reasons we get away from home on Monday. Women have a lot of sense—well, women DO have a lot of sense, and they gently work it in some way to get us out of the house on Monday, but by Monday night everything is all right. After Monday the preacher has toned down, and then he is ready for the next week's work.

I have labored with this man for fifteen years. He and I

have never had any cross purposes. I have rejoiced in the success, worked along with him in harmony. You know, preachers are envious and jealous of each other. Ordinarily, you let a preacher succeed with his work and immediately other preachers will rise up to criticise him. Somehow, there is something in us that just simply puts a fighting attitude when another fellow preacher begins to rise up and become prosperous; but I will say this out of an honest heart, I have rejoiced since the first day he came into the field, and I have tried to render him a helping hand, and he has always rendered me his helping hand and has never interfered with or crossed me in my work. We have worked together in perfect harmony. He is one person I have run with more frequently and talked to more openly, and revealed to more of my secrets than any other man with whom I have worked. I have told him things of my work, and he has told me things of his work—I know him like a book. I know him from his feet up, and he and I have walked and talked and lived together these fifteen years in great harmony; and if the Good Lord should remove him from this earth before He removes me, I will have a sad heart, because I shall miss him. I hope that we may live here a long time, and if I should go first, I shall not expect him to say any good things about me when I am gone; but I would appreciate it, if he would drop a tear on my casket; and if he goes first I shall drop a tear on his casket because of the love that I have had for him.

A Layman's View of Hearne

BY L. J. BELL

It is a very great pleasure to me to have the opportunity to make a small contribution to this very interesting program.

It is eminently fitting that 15 years of faithful and far-reaching service in a community should be recognized, and it is equally sure that in paying a tribute to a public benefactor of this type, we do but, in a measure, honor ourselves.

For all these years Rev. Thos. W. Hearne has been one of the leading ministers of his great denomination in the Pee Dee section of North and South Carolina.

No man has ever had more loyal support or heartier cooperation on the part of his members and church workers than he. His churches are wide-awake and active, gathering their enthusiasm from his own dynamic personality and leadership. Calls have repeatedly come to him to leave and go to larger and perhaps more remunerative pastorates elsewhere. His congregations on these occasions have risen en masse, begging and praying him to remain. In these petitions entire communities, regardless of church affiliation have anxiously and eagerly joined, and he has stayed to serve and bless these communities with his life and service.

It is pretty generally admitted that to be a great preacher or a great physician or a great teacher, or great in any of life's vocations, one must be right much of a man, a real man, to start with. You can't do much of anything with a wishy-washy, purposeless drifting, spineless creature, and all the

education and training in the world will never make a man of him.

Preacher Hearne, as he is generally called, is a man of courage and convictions. He believes in things and expresses his opinions clearly, forcefully and positively, and is ready to stand by them and fight for them if necessary.

In his preaching he shoots straight from the shoulder. There is no compromising, no trimming, no side-stepping, no pussy footing in his whole make-up. When he gets through you know where he stands, and his congregations like his honesty and sincerity.

And yet his great heart is as tender and sympathetic as that of a little child. He can hate and despise sin, while pitying the poor misguided sinner. I shall long remember the strong message he brought to this community when he preached the sermon dedicating this building two years ago.

He is intensely interested in young people and they reciprocate in their feeling for him. If I am not mistaken he has been a very active member of the Board of Trustees of Wingate Junior College for some time, and for some 6 or more years Chairman of the School Committee of the Pee Dee School. He is always ready and willing to serve whenever and wherever he can benefit the young life of his day and time.

Without a doubt he is one of the most popular men in Richmond County. He likes people and therefore people like him. Never in my life have I heard anyone speak of him without saying something nice and complimentary about him.

I am reminded of a story that is told of Charles Lamb, the famous English essayist and story teller. In the course of a conversation with a friend, a certain man's name was used. Sweet-spirited Charles Lamb said, with a good deal of emphasis, "Don't mention that fellow's name to me. I naturally hate him." His friend replied, "Why, Charles, I didn't think you even knew him." Charles Lamb said, "Of course I don't know him. If I know him, I couldn't hate him."

I wonder if that isn't the principal reason we dislike somebody? Perhaps we just don't know him well enough to learn his likeable traits.

Preacher Hearne knows everybody and loves everybody, carrying out the Scripture admonition to "love thy neighbor as thyself." If he has ever had a headache or a grouch or gotten up in a bad humor, nobody has ever found it out, unless it be his good wife, and she hasn't told it.

He has a keen sense of humor and a great fund of stories that have grown up out of his own experience. No doubt his love of clean fun and his quick perception of the ridiculous have served as shock absorbers to carry him through the many trying and annoying situations of every day life.

I am proud to be numbered among his many friends. We are of about the same physical statute. I don't have to reach up to him and he doesn't have to reach down to me. This is very gratifying to a small man like myself. I like to put my arm about his shoulder and walk along with him. Apparently he doesn't resent—and I hope this gesture on my part tells

him of my respect for him as a man and my genuine affection for him as a friend.

True friendship between man and man is one of the divinest things in the world, and one of the most unselfish emotions that stirs the human heart. It is the Golden Cord that links earth to Heaven. Don't you think this is an over-statement? Then listen to one of the most beautiful passages in the New Testament. I shall use the word Love in place of Charity, for they mean the same here:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of Angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals.

And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

Love suffereth long and is kind; love envieth not, love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

Doth not behave itself unseemingly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.

Beareth all things, believeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth."

There is a beautiful poem, along the same thought, which is familiar to every High School pupil.

Abou Ben Adhem may his tribe increase
 Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace
 And saw within the moonlight in his room
 Making it rich and like a lily in bloom.
 An angel writing in a book of gold.
 Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold
 And to the presence in the room he said
 "What writest thou?" The vision raised its head
 And with a look made of all sweet accord
 Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."
 "And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"
 Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low
 But cheerily still and said, "I pray thee then
 Write me as one that loves his fellow men."
 Then the angel wrote and vanished. The next night
 It came again with a great wakening light,
 And showed the names whom love of God had blessed,
 And, lo, Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

I have tried to show you in plain, simple words the picture of Rev. Thos. W. Hearne as the public knows him. He has marked out for himself a course in life to which he is as true as the needle to the pole, and which is summed up in the Scripture quotation:

"And what doth God require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy, and to work humbly with thy God."

This is the pattern of his life.

How His Churches Regard Him

BY C. B. DEANE

I greet you Mr. Hearne and Mrs. Hearne and you splendid folks who compose the membership of Cordova, Pleasant Grove and Pee Dee Churches. This is a most joyful occasion and I too rejoice in the event that brings us together today.

It is not often that a group of churches can come together and report such splendid financial accomplishments as were contained in the reports that have just been submitted. Neither is it easy to take a group of figures and make a very interesting statement. However we are all able to fully appreciate "a balance". Most of our churches show "overdrafts," if I may be allowed to use the language of the banker. The reports that have been read by the ladies representing the three churches pastored by Mr. Hearne during these fifteen years do not tell the whole story. They do not give us sufficient information to realize that at Cordova, Pleasant Grove and at Pee Dee groups of faithful members have worked hard and faithfully to show at the end of these fifteen years an outstanding balance both spiritually and financially.

While these reports were being read I thought of that incident recorded in the New Testament, where Christ, now risen from the dead, joined two of his disciples as they journeyed toward Emmaus. The disciples did not recognize the Master until He joined them in an evening meal along the roadside. Thereafter the Lord vanished and these two disciples said one to the other: "Did not our hearts burn within us while he spake with us along the way." Such must be the feeling of everyone in this audience this afternoon. As we listen to the speeches and especially as we listened to the reports we can express the sentiment expressed by those two disciples two thousand years ago — "Does not our hearts glow with justifiable pride as we recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the Pastor and members of these three churches during the past fifteen years."

If I may, let me repeat the figures which show the gifts made to the Co-operative Program which represents the different phases of the denominational program, and which does not include local church gifts.

And may I say that in order to appreciate these gifts we must realize that each of the churches began with a small handful of members fifteen years ago. Cordova has given \$962.05, Pleasant Grove \$325.60 and Pee Dee \$1,193.22.

A study of the records of all Churches reveal the fact that as a church supports its benevolent or missionary program just in the same proportion will it develop spiritually and show marked progress in all of its activities. These churches are certainly carrying forward a missionary program that is worthy of emulation. It is an inspiration to us your friends, who share in this happy occasion and we congratulate you.

A feature of these reports, and about which little, if anything was said, is the fact that the churches are free of debt. In this day most of our churches are staggering along with excessive debts. Churches like individuals cannot do their best

work when faced with pressing obligations. The fact that your churches are out of debt is worthy of note when you witness the splendidly equipped and modern churches in which you worship from Sunday to Sunday.

A beautiful tribute is due the membership of these churches because of the loyal and faithful service accorded your pastor. One would fail in his duty if he failed to emphasize this fact. Since 1924, the year your Pastor assumed the Pastorate of these churches we have passed through some very trying years. When Mr. Hearne came to Richmond County our County, and State and Nation was just emerging from the World War. They were trying and difficult days and when coupled with days and weeks and months of unemployment the membership of these churches responded to the challenge and leadership of the good man we honor today. One of the very first acts of your churches fifteen years ago was to assume the entire financial burden of the churches. Prior to 1924 the greater part of the Pastor's salary was paid by the Baptist State Mission Board. Since 1924 you have assumed this responsibility and today your churches are among the leaders in the Pee Dee Association. It has not been an easy task but I know that you are happy you made the sacrifice. Today you can rejoice in a task well done and launch out into an even greater program.

Another significant feature that comes from a study of these reports is that approximately 95 per cent of the present membership of your churches, now totaling 924 were brought in during this decade and half thru the efforts of your present Pastor. This does not take into account the hundreds of members who have moved away during this period. It thrills us all when we note that during this year a total of 82 persons were received for Baptism alone. Indeed you are carrying out the Commission of our Master.

These words of mine are not intended to be a boastful oration. The facts indicate that here we have a happy, co-operative membership, following the leadership of a faithful aggressive Minister. The natural outgrowth of such a fellowship is reflected in the excellent reports and events which bring to a close fifteen years of devoted Ministry.

I congratulate you, Mr. Hearne and Mrs. Hearne, and you his loyal members. May the events of this day challenge you to even greater goals.

Mr. Hearne's Reply

APPRECIATIVE OF KIND WORDS

Mr. Burris, distinguished visitors, my friends:

The moment seems too sacred for me to say anything. My heart is deeply moved. Mr. Benton has told you of a few of our experiences together, interspersing his remarks with a few jokes. For a moment I was afraid he was going to tell something. Before he got through he took all the talk out of me—if there was any in me. If I am shaking, you may know that it is not because I am cold.

Of course, any man would appreciate the nice things that have been said. I am indebted to my freinds that have appeared on this program—your program, not mine. Many of my friends could not be here today, not through any choice of their own, but circumstances over which they have not control, made it impossible. While I am deeply grateful to you visitors that have come with us today, and said these fine things about me, I want you to know that I am ever thankful to the many devoted men, women, boys and girls who constitute the congregations that I serve. After all, you have made this hour possible; you, the people I serve daily, and have made a sincere effort to serve, in my limited way, through these years. I will never be able to thank you for the many kind things you have done for me. You have put food on my table, clothes on my back, your unselfish devotion and loyalty to me as your pastor has also made it possible for me to have a home on the hill top; and now you come, bringing this fine car as a token of your love and esteem for me. Surely you can understand why I am almost overcome with emotion. Added to all that has been said and done here today, I am not unmindful of your willingness to stand by me in the hours that were darkest. Your willingness to uphold my hand at all times has made it possible for me to carry on in this great work. No man has ever served a more loyal people, and the true sentiment of my heart is that I thank God for you.

I feel as the young man that graduated with great honors from one of our colleges. During the graduation service he was presented with several medals. At the close of the exercises he was asked to say something, and when presented by the President of the Class, the young man arose and walked down from the stage and back near the door. He laid his hands on a plain little gray-haired lady wearing a black bonnet. By her side was a poorly clad man. He insisted until he got them to come down to the front with him, and then he stated, "Mr. President, members of this faculty, and my friends that are gathered here, I want you to meet the greatest man and woman I have ever known. These medals all belong to them, all the honor belongs to them. All that I ever expect to be, I owe to them. Back on the farm they labored, they gave their prayers, their whole lives so that this great hour might be possible. I feel today that if honor is to be bestowed, it is to my people—Honor unto whom honor is due."

God bless each one of you, and don't let the day, if it be hot, nor the night, if it be cold, fail to call upon me if you need me. It is the joy of my life to serve you and to these great men of God that have come here and said the nice things about me, they are my friends, Mr. Benton, Mr. Burris and Mr. Bell, Mr. Deane, Judge Phillips and all the rest—I don't know what to say other than I love you. Let's all go home now and in another fifteen years you can come back and bring me an aeroplane.

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Historical sketches Lee Dee, Cordova, and
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist
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